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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6384

BILL NUMBER: SB 102

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 16, 2010

BILL AMENDED: Feb 16, 2010

SUBJECT: Interment of Service Members' Remains.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Wyss

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Tincher

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 X DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill makes changes to the definition of a qualified service member for purposes of determining eligibility for assistance from the Military Family Relief Fund. The bill adds a definition of a "designated period".

The bill also provides that a person granted the authority to direct the disposition of remains of a service member in a certain United States Department of Defense form is second (after the person designated in a funeral planning directive) in the priority of individuals who may authorize the cremation of another person's remains and who may authorize the owner of a cemetery to inter, entomb, or inurn the body or cremated remains of a deceased human.

Effective Date: (Amended) Upon passage; July 1, 2010.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) This bill changes qualifications under which service members or their dependents may receive assistance from the Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF). Currently, only service members and their dependents are eligible for MFRF benefits if the service member served on active duty after September 11, 2001, and during a national conflict or war. This bill adds that active duty service members and their dependents would be eligible for MFRF benefits if the service member's active duty occurred upon the call of the President of the United States or the Governor for the following reasons; (1) for a national or state emergency, (2) to provide humanitarian assistance, or (3) for peacekeeping operations.

Adding additional eligibility criteria for MFRF benefits may increase expenditures from the MFRF to provide assistance to service members and service members' dependent(s) during the designated periods

defined in the bill. Additional expenditures made from the MFRF will depend on (1) the proclamation made by the President of the United States or Governor, (2) any increase in the number of requests for assistance made by service members who would qualify under changes in eligibility, and (3) the decisions of the Military and Veterans' Benefits Board regarding administering benefits.

(Revised) *Background Information*: Under current law, the qualifying service member or the dependent(s) of a qualifying service member are eligible for up to one year after (1) the end of the a service member's active duty service or (2) the end of a national time of conflict or war (whichever comes first).

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Veterans' Affairs, Military and Veterans' Benefits Board.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.